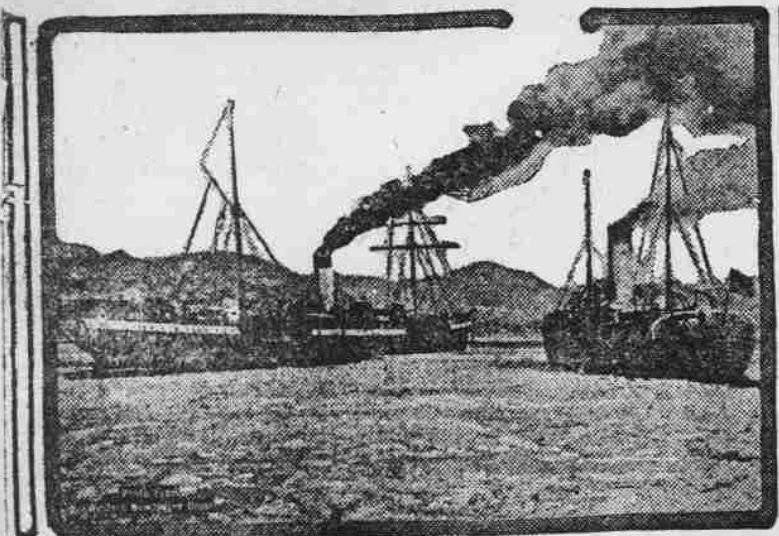


PORT OF VLADIVOSTOK WHERE JAPANESE TROOPS HAVE LANDED



Scene in the harbor of Vladivostok, the Russian port on the Japan sea where Japanese troops have been landed to preserve order and protect the immense quantities of supplies sent by the United States and the entente allies.

CLEMENCEAU TO CHANGE SYSTEM OF FRENCH ARMY

Paris, Dec. 24.—Premier Clemenceau has sent a circular letter to Gen. Petain and all the army chiefs pointing out that the experience of three years of war has shown that existing age limits are too high and that with a few rare exceptions commands are not effectively exercised at over 55 years for a regiment, 68 for a brigade, 60 for a division and 62 for an army corps.

Under these conditions, he adds, general and field officers over these ages must be given commands hereafter in the rear or placed at the disposal of the minister of war.

The only exception this rule will be general officers recommended to retain their commands on the personal responsibility of generals commanding armies.

In the future the premier declares, no promotions will be made to the rank of general of officers who have served only a short time in the line.

This policy will result in placing at the head of the fighting troops, he hopes, chiefs who knew them well and in whom the soldiers can have full confidence from having seen them at work. The same principle will be used in promoting field and subordinate officers.

LEHIGH APPEALS TO EMPLOYEES

New York, Dec. 24.—A Christmas appeal to all Lehigh Valley railroad employees to practice self sacrifice and devotion to duty to enable the road to do its share in winning the war was issued here today by E. E. Loomis, president of the road. The carriers, the message said, "are literally the backbone of the men in the American camps and the French trenches."

"There must be no slackers among us," the appeal reads in part. "Every man must stick to his job in these troublesome days. It is a time for self sacrifice. This means working 30 days a month, if necessary, regardless of weather conditions, losing no time after pay day, assisting, each in his place, in running this railroad at the highest point of efficiency. The co-operation of all is essential. Don't be a slacker."

LIGHTLESS NIGHT ORDER IGNORED

Bridgeport shall lose none of the Yuletide cheer through the dimming of the white way and advertising lights to save fuel. Alderman Joseph H. Stagg, chairman of the Lamps Committee of the Common Council, gave a statement to that effect to The Farmer today, when a reporter asked why the city had not observed the "lightless night" order.

"We all know," said Stagg, "that the war puts things in bad shape, but at this time we'd like to make things look as cheerful as possible. After the holidays we will consider 'lightless nights.'"

MOSCHELES DIES AT LONDON HOME

London, Dec. 24.—Felix Moscheles, the painter, died at Tunbridge Wells on Saturday.

Felix Moscheles was born in London on Feb. 8, 1834. He was a son of Franz Moscheles and the grandson of Felix Mendelssohn. He studied painting in Antwerp and Paris and his first pictures were exhibited in those cities.

Mr. Moscheles was very active in the cause of international arbitration and peace. He was a member of the international peace bureau in Bern.

VORWAERTS PRINTS AN EXPLANATION

Amsterdam, Dec. 24.—The Vorwaerts, the socialist organ, reported to have been ordered to suspend publication for three days, appeared unexpectedly Sunday. It says its suspension was due to criticism of the provisioning of war invalids under the heading "Let them go home."

The Vorwaerts prints prominently a defense of Herr Von Waidow, the food controller. It quotes him as denying having excused or tolerated certain conditions alleged, but as admitting that illicit trading has assumed proportions that threaten to endanger the food supply.

PROSECUTION ORDER. Paris, Dec. 24.—Gen. Dubail today signed the order for the prosecution of Deputies Caillaux and Loustalot and M. Comby. It is alleged that Comby was present at the luncheon at which former Premier Caillaux met Cavallini and is said to have accompanied Loustalot to Switzerland, where he saw the former khedive of Egypt.

Cavalrymen at Camp Wadsworth will go abroad as machine gun men.

ENTERTAINED MEN OF EXPEDITIONARY FORCE IN FRANCE

Refreshments and Amusements Provided By the Y. M. C. A. For Men

Paris, Dec. 24.—Refreshments and amusements were provided for the first line trenches by the American Army and Navy Young Men's Christian Association. This work began in a cow shed in a little village just behind the front lines under the direction of Ira D. Shaw, a former Columbia University football player. The equipment to begin with consisted only of a small supply of chocolate, cigarettes and matches, which were passed out to the men as they passed the hut on their way "up the line."

Later the cow shed was abandoned for a large habitable room with a splendid open fireplace. The association headquarters in Paris largely augmented the supply of refreshments and provided magazines, writing paper and a talking machine, which was on "active service" from early morning until late at night. Each evening groups of tired, wet American infantrymen and their French comrades-in-arms flocked to the room for a bit of entertainment. The barking of the 75's used by the Americans as the shells started for the German lines could be heard plainly within the hut. Nearby were dugouts for shelter when the German shells came too close for comfort.

Not many kilometers from this advance hut was another that originally was a French barracks. It was gradually turned over to the American Association which served there both French and American soldiers.

It had a canteen, games, writing material and two coal fires which were kept supplied by French soldiers.

The Y. M. C. A. secretaries did not confine their work to the huts but went almost to the front trenches with newspapers, magazines, tobacco and other supplies.

GEN. GUILLAUMAT TO TAKE COMMAND

Paris, Dec. 24.—Gen. M. P. E. Sarraill, the government has decided, according to an official announcement will be succeeded as head of the Allied armies in Saloniki by Gen. Marie Louis Adolphe Guillaumat. Gen. Sarraill, who has had to struggle against serious difficulties and has rendered great services, will be called to other duties as soon as circumstances permit.

Gen. Guillaumat arrived in Saloniki on Saturday. He is one of the heroes of Verdun, where he commanded an army corps which was mentioned in army orders as having "distinguished itself by the methodical method of its preparations and the vigor of its attacks."

DIFFICULTY OVER SWIMMING MATCH

New York, Dec. 24.—Will S. Merriam, coach of Thelma Darby of Indianapolis, the A. A. U. Central association swimmer, sprang a surprise in local swimming circles when he stipulated last Saturday that Olga Dorfner of Philadelphia be added and a triangular race be made of the 500 yards competition between Thelma Darby of New Rochelle, national champion, and Miss Darby at the Winter Pool, Brighton Beach.

During her record making tour last summer Miss Galligan was defeated by Miss Darby in a swimming meet at Indianapolis, and upon her return home begged the management of the pool to bring on the Central girl so that she might have a chance to retrieve her laurels. When it looked as if everything was set, Merriam interjected his unusual condition and things went all askew.

Miss Dorfner, who had previously been requested to come on and race Miss Galligan in a special match race after the contest with Miss Darby, accepted Merriam's proposal. The national champion would not consent, as she feels the score with Miss Darby must be settled, and after that she is more than willing to take on Miss Dorfner.

Entreaties have been in vain, for the New Rochelle girl, who is well known for her sportsmanship and willingness to race all comers, appears to be an exception to the rule that it is a woman's privilege to change her mind.

NEW SWISS LOAN. Bern, Switzerland, Dec. 24.—Switzerland will issue in January a new loan of 150,000,000 francs at 5 per cent. The cost of Swiss mobilization to date amounts to 1,000,000,000 francs.

Red Cross members throughout the country are estimated at 8,000,000.

Canada will be dry for the remainder of the war and for one year after peace is declared.

GRAINS MAY BE PURCHASED AT NOMINAL PRICES THROUGH THE STATE FOOD ADMINISTRATION

By placing their orders through the office of the United States Food Administrator at 36 Pearl street, Hartford, co-operative grain buying associations will be able to purchase feed from the wholesale dealers of the state at cost plus a small fixed commission, according to an agreement formulated and signed by representatives of the wholesale interests and the Food Administration.

The plan provides that any association wishing to purchase food in car lots may forward their orders to the Food Administration office. This office will then secure quotations and forward them by wire to the manager of the local association. Upon the manager's authorization the Hartford office will place the order with a wholesale firm which will fill it at cost plus a commission of 50 cents a ton over the invoice price in the case of sacked grain, or one per cent. per bushel for grain in bulk. A commission of \$1 per ton will be charged in the case of hay or straw.

The agreement between the wholesale dealers and the United States Food Administration is as follows: "Mr. Robert Scoville, Federal Food Administrator for Connecticut, Hartford, Conn.

Dear Sir:

This is to confirm the verbal report which I made to you of the unanimous action of the grain dealers in conference in your office yesterday afternoon.

It was decided that we would willingly sell to any accredited farmers' co-operative association who desires to purchase goods in car lots so that their members may have the advantage of the lowest possible price as follows: All feeds either sacked or in bulk at 50 cents per ton over the invoice price at the date of purchase, \$1 per ton on hay and straw and 1 cent per bushel on grain in bulk, the terms to be draft with bill of lading attached payable on arrival of car, the purchaser to pay interest charges on the draft from the time it is deposited until it is paid. If the purchaser desires a car in transit there will be an additional charge of \$2 per car which is the actual cost of diverting same.

As explained to you there is at the present time a government order that all cars must be loaded to capacity. In making purchases it is impossible for the shipper to know at the time of the sale what capacity cars will be placed for him to load, so it is the prevailing custom to sell certain sized cars which at the moment are 1,000 bushels for oats, 1,300 bushels for corn, and 30 to 35 tons for sacked feed. Any overages to be adjusted on the same basis. The conditions of the sale shall be the same with regard to inspection, weights, etc., as are imposed upon all at the time of purchase and all claims for damage, shortage or overcharges for freight shall be made by the consignee. In the event of such claims we have no doubt that the concern who sold the goods would be willing to give the benefit of its business experience in advising the receiver how to get the papers together in order to establish the claim. In all of the above cases we stand

ready to furnish you or the purchaser with a certified copy of our invoice which would establish the cost price of the goods to us.

In case anyone of us has either in transit or for shipment feed or grain, we may be willing to offer at less than the market price, such offerings will be made at a flat price to the co-operative association in which case we do not feel it would be incumbent on us to furnish copies of the invoices, as the goods would be sold at a less than the market price. If split carloads from the West are desired, we would be glad to furnish them on the same basis as straight carloads, although it is usually necessary to pay an advance of about 50 cents per ton for loading the two kinds of feed into the car. However, in this case we would follow the same rule, viz., that of furnishing the invoice and charging the regular commission of 50 cents per ton.

It is agreeable to those present that we shall pay the telephone charges in the event you call us requesting quotations. There were present at the meeting representatives of the following concerns: Vincent Bros., Bridgeport, Conn., R. G. Davis & Sons, New Haven, Conn., Crittenden & Benham Co., New Haven, Conn., Hartford Hay & Grain Co., Hartford, Conn., E. Manchester & Son, Winsted, Conn., Meech & Stoddard, Inc., Middletown, Conn., The Coles Co., Middletown, Conn.

We think it is unnecessary to add that everyone present expressed a desire to co-operate with you, not only along the lines indicated above, but in any way which you may suggest at any time and we hope you will feel free to call on us for information or advice about any of the commodities which we handle.

Yours very truly,
(Signed)
FRANK A. COLES,
Acting Chairman.

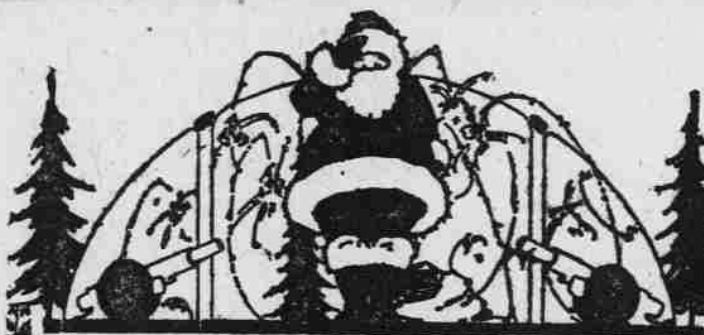
KAISER VISITS VERDUN TROOPS

Amsterdam, Dec. 24.—Emperor William visited the front north of Verdun on Friday, according to a Berlin dispatch, and in an address to the troops thanked them warmly for their efforts.

"But for the calm and heroic warriors on the western front," he said, "the enormous deployment of German forces in the east and in Italy never would have been possible. The fighter in the west has exposed heroically his body so that his brothers on the Drina and the Isonzo might storm from victory to victory. The fearful battles on the bloody hills around Verdun were not in vain; they created new foundations for the conduct of the war."

General Scott, the former chief of staff, on his return from France told of the sinking of a U-boat by the quick and efficient work of the American gun crew on an American liner.

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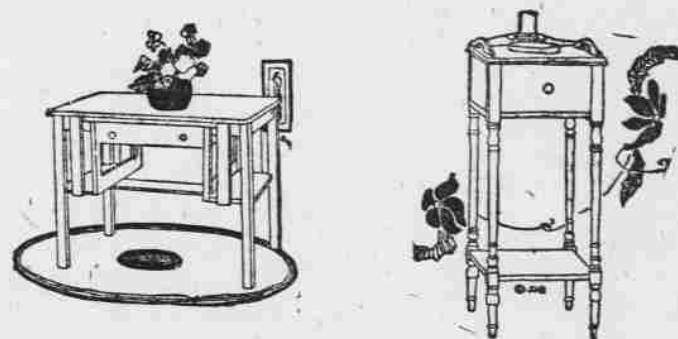
Christmas, the season for the renewal of old friendships, for the forgetting of differences, for the expression of goodwill and kindness, is here.

May your Christmas be filled with joy and happiness, unmarred by sorrow, and may you carry with you through the coming year, the spirit of the Yuletide.

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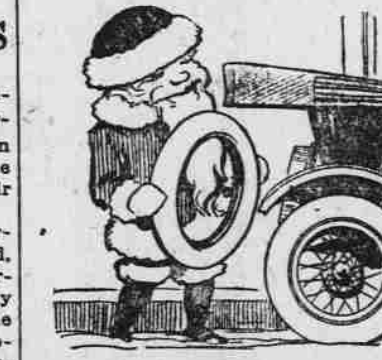


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